



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SCIENCE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1913

CONTENTS

<i>The Human Worth of Rigorous Thinking:</i> PROFESSOR CASSIUS J. KEYSER	789
<i>Chemistry as affecting the Profitableness of Industry:</i> DR. G. W. THOMPSON	800
<i>The International Conference on the Structure of Matter:</i> PROFESSOR E. RUTHERFORD	806
<i>The Geological Society of America</i>	807
<i>The Society of American Bacteriologists</i>	808
<i>The Atlanta Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science</i>	808
<i>Scientific Notes and News</i>	811
<i>University and Educational News</i>	815
<i>Discussion and Correspondence:—</i>	
<i>A Proposed Re-arrangement of Sections for The American Association for the Advancement of Science:</i> ROLAND M. HARPER.	815
<i>Scientific Books:—</i>	
<i>The National Antarctic Expedition:</i> GENERAL A. W. GREELY. <i>The Belgian Antarctic Expedition:</i> DR. W. H. DALL. <i>Abderhalden on Abwehrfermente des tierischen Organismus:</i> JOHN AUER. <i>Moore on Bovine Tuberculosis and its Control:</i> PROFESSOR MAŽYCK P. RAVENEL. <i>Catalogue of Lepidoptera Phalaenæ:</i> DR. HARRISON G. DYAR	818
<i>Special Articles:—</i>	
<i>Some Effects of the Drought upon Vegetation:</i> PROFESSOR RAYMOND J. POOL. <i>An Ancestral Lizard from the Permian of Texas:</i> PROFESSOR S. W. WILLISTON	822
<i>Convention of Geologists and Mining Engineers</i>	826

MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

THE HUMAN WORTH OF RIGOROUS THINKING¹

But in the strong recess of Harmony,
Established firm abides the rounded Sphere.
—Empedocles.

AMONG the agencies that ameliorate life, what is the rôle of rigorous thinking? What is the rôle of the spirit that aspires always to logical righteousness, seeking "to frame a world according to a rule of divine perfection"?

Evidently that question is not one for adequate handling in an hour's address by an ordinary student of mathematics. Rather is it a subject for a long series of lectures by a learned professor of the history of civilization. Indeed so vast is the subject that even an ordinary student of mathematics can detect some of the more obvious tasks such a philosophic historian would have to perform and a few of the difficulties he would doubtless encounter. It may be worth while to mention some of them.

Certainly one of the tasks, and probably one of the difficulties also, would be that of securing an audience—an audience, I mean, capable of understanding the lectures, for is not a genuine auditor a listener who understands? To understand the lectures it would seem to be necessary to know what that is which the lectures are about—that is, it would be necessary to know what is meant by rigorous thinking. To know this, however, one must either have consciously done some rigorous thinking or else, at the very least, have examined some specimens

¹ An address delivered before the Mathematical Colloquium of Columbia University, October 13, 1913.